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POEMS OF NATURE AND LIFE. By John Witt Randall. Edited by Francis Ellingwood Abbot, With an Introduction on the Randall Family. Boston: George H. Ellis.

This is a book that belongs less to the public than to those who have a special and personal interest in the man whom it commemorates. It records the uneventful life of a person of strong and fine, if rather morbid, nature, who shyly and secretly served the Muses; and reprints the poems which he published—if their almost private circulation may be so characterized—during his lifetime. The Editor, who writes the memoir, gives a frankly enthusiastic and very personal view of his admired friend, to whom he was greatly indebted, evidently; and we forgive him a lack of perspective and disinterested discrimination in his portrait and estimate. John Witt Randall was a recluse, who touched life at too few points to make his career of general interest and importance; but what we like in him is his sturdily sincere refusal to call himself a Christian when he had ceased to believe in the common essentials of Christian doctrine. As for his poems, while they outrank much minor verse in general quality, they include little that calls for rescue from forgetfulness. The shortest are the best; and we should select the "Lament of Orpheus" as an example of his highest minstrelsy. The "Ode to Conscience," like several others, contains felicitous lines; but is diffuse and abstract. If ethical earnestness and fineness constituted good poetry, these verses would rank high; but the Orphic, singing quality we must have.

PERCIVAL CHUBB.

NEW YORK.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

- THE ECONOMICS OF DISTRIBUTION. By John A. Hobson. (The Citizen's Library of Economics, Politics and Sociology. Edited by Richard T. Ely, Ph.D., LL.D.) New York: The Macmillan Company, 1900. Pp. vii., 361.
- CHAPTERS FROM ARISTOTLE'S ETHICS. By J. H. Muirhead, M.A., Professor of Mental and Moral Philosophy, Mason University College, Birmingham. London: John Murray, 1900. Pp. xiii., 319.
- WESLEY AND METHODISM. By F. J. Snell, M.A. (Oxon.). (The World's Epoch Makers, edited by Oliphant Smeaton). Edinburgh: T. & T. Clark, 1900. Pp. x., 243.